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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Town remembers 9/11

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam Fire Department held a 9/11 remembrance ceremony, the ceremony took place out front of the Fire Department and was live streamed on public access television.

The ceremony was held in front of the 9/11 memorial in front of the Agawam Fire Department building. The memorial was planned and designed by City Councilor George Bitzas, and was built to honor and remember the victims, their families, fire, police, and EMS personnel. The memorial includes the flagpole, a pentagon around the base of the flag, a replica of the world trade center, and stones representing lives lost. The memorial was surrounded by



Members of the Agawam Fire Department raise the flag during the live streamed ceremony in honor of those lost. PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

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Paving projects beginning in town

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – With the Feeding Hills center project nearly completed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Town of Agawam's Department of Public Works is announcing several paving projects will be taking place.

DPW Superintendent Christopher Golba said various paving projects were set to start on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

According to Golba, construction activities for the streets will include reclamation of the existing pavement, fine grading of the gravel road base, and the installation of new asphalt pavement surface. The streets being paved will be done one at a time and the exact order has not been determined as of press time.

Golba states the work will continue into early October when he hopes all five streets will be completed.

Streets to be completed are South West Street, from Barry Street to the Connecticut state line, Spencer Street, Mulberry Street, Tower Terrace, and Corey Street, from Janelle Drive to Alhambra Circle.

Golba stated that residents are being asked not to park cars

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Agawam paramedics helping students get back to school safely

AGAWAM – Mayor William Sapelli announces the Agawam Fire Department will now provide paramedic services to aid the Agawam Health Department School Nurses. Massachusetts school reopening guidance requires that a COVID-19 isolation space be maintained separate from the school nurses office for students or staff that may begin to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while in school. Because of the

medical knowledge required, both the nurse's office and the isolation space should be staffed by a medical professional.

The high demand for RN's as schools across the Commonwealth re-open, left the staffing agencies unable to provide additional personnel to the Agawam Health Department. Meeting the Commonwealth's requirements and safely opening the schools was a high priority for Agawam.

Mayor Sapelli along with Kathleen Auer and Fire Chief Alan Sirois collaborated on a plan that would allow Agawam's Paramedics to work with school Nurses and meet the reopening requirements of the Commonwealth. On September 14th Agawam Firefighter Paramedics reported for duty in Agawam schools helping to keep students and staff as safe as possible in these challenging

SCHOOL | page 2

Tree takes out power



A tree took out power lines on Highland Avenue on Monday afternoon. The large tree also blocked access to the road for a few hours, cutting off residents from their homes and stranding those already at home because it is a dead-end street. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



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Scholarship recipients announced

AGAWAM – The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Agawam are pleased to announce the 2020 recipients of their annual scholarship. Students receiving this award must be a child or grandchild of a club member. Those receiving this year's scholarships are: Alexandra Grimaldi, granddaughter of Judy Grimaldi, Ben Lepper, grandson of Peggy Lepper and Paul Malinoski, grandson of Joan Malinoski. Club members send their congratulations to these students and best wishes as they continue their education.

Cooper's accepting donations for 'Dress for Success'

AGAWAM – For a limited time Cooper's Gifts Apparel Home of Agawam is accepting donations of professional attire for Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts.

Interview-appropriate women's clothing, shoes and accessories will be collected at Cooper's through Sept. 30.

"We invite everyone to Fall-clean their closets and change a life," said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts Apparel Home.

Donations must be like-new, clean and on hangers. All professional attire is welcome, but DFS has expressed that their greatest current needs are for petite and plus sizes, like-new shoes, especially size 8 and up and purses. No casual clothing, please.

"Just ask yourself 'Would I wear this to an interview?' If the answer is yes, Dress for Success can put it to good use," Gourde said.

The mission of Dress for Success (DFS) is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. They provide each client with professional attire to secure employment, but they are about much more than simply a new outfit. Besides physically equipping the client with apparel and accessories, their programs furnish her with a confidence that she carries forever and the knowledge that she can actively define her life, the direction she takes and what success means to her.

"We have held clothing drives for DFS for years; our customers consider it a convenience. Especially for people West of the river, it's easier to bring donations here than up to the DFS Boutique on Boston Road," Gourde said.

Items may be brought to the shop anytime

during the month of September. Cooper's is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, and is open Tuesdays-Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"This drive coincides with Dress for Success as our September Round-Up charity; so it's the perfect time to spread the word of their mission and really help them out," Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round Up program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the next dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated nearly \$25,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity, may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/

Free COVID-19 testing extended at HCC

HOLYOKE — Free COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until Sept. 30.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help the state and the City of Holyoke reduce the spread of COVID-19. Tests are being conducted outside HCC's Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation and administered by EMTs and nurses from County Ambulance and Aveanna Healthcare in Springfield in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Testing is available six days a week through September 30, 2020, during the following hours:

Monday 7-11 a.m.
Tuesday 2-7 p.m.
Wednesday 7-11 a.m.
Thursday 2-7 p.m.
Friday 7-11 a.m.
Saturday 7-11 a.m.

Tests are conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments, and there is no cost for the tests and no referral is required.

Please enter campus from Homestead Avenue and follow the signs to M Lot (adjacent the Bartley Center), where in-car tests are being administered.

Turnaround time for test results is typically four days or fewer.

Library to host program about Real ID

AGAWAM – Beginning October 2021, the Real ID license/ID card will be required to board a domestic flight or enter a federal building or office. On Monday, Sept. 21, the Agawam library will host a speaker from AAA to inform participants and answer questions about this new identification. AAA Representative, Mark Shieldrop will join us virtually via ZOOM on Monday, Sept. 21 at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested is asked register on the library's online calendar at www.agawamlibrary.org. Please include a valid email address. All registrants will receive an email link to Zoom one day prior to the event. This event is free and open to the public. For more information or to register, please call the Agawam Library (413) 789-1550 or visit our website: www.agawamlibrary.org

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PAVING ■ from page 1

on the sides of the roads that are being worked on during construction. Residents and motorists alike should also be aware of potential traffic delays and detours, so residents should plan accordingly.

"The DPW will do their best to ensure residents who live on the above listed streets will be able to access their driveways during construction.

All of the construction schedule dates are available online, but are also subject to change depending on the weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Anyone looking for updates to the construction schedule can go to <http://www.agawam.ma.us/492/Pavement-Management>. Other questions can be directed to the DPW by calling (413) 821-0600.

The state is also working on South Westfield Street near the Route 57 highway entrance.

Feeding Hills Center was recently completed with just a few small items left to be done.

The main road includes three lanes at the intersection, each with a dedicated direction (left turn lane, straight lane, and right turn lane). The side streets, North Westfield Street and South Westfield Street also included multiple turn lanes and traffic lights have been re-synchronized to create a better traffic flow through the intersection. The project took most of this year to complete and along with the new traffic flow, bike lanes were updated crosswalks and sidewalks around the intersection have been installed. The intersection was widened through some small land takings in order to make it safer.

SCHOOL ■ from page 1

times. The school shifts are considered "extra duty" meaning none of the Fire Department personnel assigned to staff the town's fire engines and ambulances are assigned to the schools.

"This isn't the kind of work our Paramedics are typically performing, but they are all highly skilled and fully capable of performing these duties," said Chief Sirois. "This type of cooperation speaks volumes of the dedication and flexibility of our town's Paramedics."

While this is a temporary solution, it certainly fills an immediate need allowing schools to reopen as the Health Department seeks a more permanent resolution.

Interim School Superintendent Sheila Hoffman stated, "The Agawam Fire Department continues to partner with the school department to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff. This on-going collaboration allows our district not only to move forward during the COVID-19 pandemic, but also provides our administrators with confidence that highly-skilled and capable Paramedics are on the premises to address any medical situation that may arise.

This support is greatly appreciated, and the dedication of these Paramedics should be recognized."

Mayor William Sapelli stated, "I would like to thank Agawam Fire Chief, Alan Sirois and Health Director, Kathleen Auer for going above and beyond to find a temporary solution that benefits our community a great deal."

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Governor proclaims September to be Emergency Preparedness Month

FRAMINGHAM – Gov. Charlie Baker has proclaimed September 2020 to be Emergency Preparedness Month in Massachusetts to encourage residents, families, and organizations to prepare for emergencies and disasters. September is also National Preparedness Month.

The commonwealth will kick-off the annual observance by launching a public Thank You campaign on social media to recognize the tireless efforts of essential workers and organizations that are doing so much to keep the commonwealth prepared and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of emergency preparedness, and the role we all must play in better preparing our homes, workplaces and communities for the unexpected,” said Baker. “It has also highlighted the incredible contributions of so many individuals who have stepped up every day to ensure that essential services and goods continued to be delivered throughout this public health emergency.”

“Emergency Preparedness Month provides us with an opportunity each year to focus on what we can do to make ourselves and our families better prepared,” said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. “Especially now, we are thankful for all the tireless efforts of the Commonwealth’s essential workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Visitors to Mass.Gov/EPmonth can download a certificate of appreciation to thank an essential worker or organization in their community. After personalizing the certificate, residents are asked to post a picture of the certificate to the social media platform of their choice with the hashtag #EPisEssential.

“Everyone plays an important role in

staying prepared, especially in the face of new challenges posed by the pandemic,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Thomas Turco. “I hope these initiatives raise awareness of present-day risks, outline measures we all should be taking, and facilitate collaboration between the public and private sectors. When we embrace preparedness, we all have an opportunity to serve our communities.”

“Preparedness takes a whole community effort and during the COVID-19 pandemic so many essential workers and organizations across the Commonwealth have worked tirelessly to keep medical services operating, public safety operations functioning, food, medicine and commodities stocked, and other vital needs met during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said MEMA Director Samantha Phillips.

During September, MEMA and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health will share information on their respective social media accounts about emergency preparedness topics including emergency planning, building an emergency kit, preparing for disasters, youth preparedness, ways to get involved in community preparedness, and more. This emergency preparedness information includes guidance about how to prepare for emergencies during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will feature signage along highways to raise awareness of Emergency Preparedness Month.

For those who would like to say thank you to an essential worker or organization in their community, and to find resources on how to prepare for emergencies large and small, <http://www.mass.gov/EP-month>.

New cycle of Community Compact Cabinet IT grant applications start

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration today announced the opening of the sixth year of the Community Compact IT Grant Program which will provide a total of \$3 million in grants for municipal and school district projects designed to modernize and improve technology systems. The Community Compact IT program will be accepting applications from Sept. 15, through Oct. 15, and will provide each municipal recipient up to \$200,000 in funding.

Since its inception, the Community Compact IT Grant Program has awarded 240 grants totaling \$12 million to municipalities and school districts to invest in transformative technology infrastructure and critical equipment.

“Our administration remains committed to supporting cities and towns and modernizing and securing the commonwealth’s technological resources,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “We continue to work closely with our partners in the legislature and in local government to improve technology systems, a need that is even more apparent due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.”

“The Community Compact IT Grant Program continues to help meet communities’ technology needs and bolster technological capabilities,” said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. “As the chair of the Community Compact Cabinet, I am proud of the work we have done so far and look forward to another year of important projects.”

COVID-19 has greatly impacted how commonwealth residents interact with municipalities and utilize technology services. These Community Compact IT grants will be allocated to commonwealth cities, towns, and school districts to aid in one-time capital improvements such as technology infrastructure, upgrades, or equipment purchases. This includes records management and e-permitting systems, implementing new cybersecurity measures, and improvements to public

safety systems.

“Community Compact IT grants provide important opportunities for local governments to engage in projects that may otherwise be cost-prohibitive,” said Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan. “We appreciate the support of the Legislature and municipal partners across the commonwealth as we continue to improve the delivery of essential technology services for Massachusetts residents.”

“We believe that making smart investments to modernize and secure technology assets at both the state and local level is a key component in creating a resilient and responsive government for the commonwealth’s residents and businesses,” said Secretary of Technology Services and Security Curtis M. Wood. “The Community Compact IT Grant Program has funded many critical municipal IT projects to date, and we look forward to the continued dialogue with our partners in municipal government.”

Formed in January 2015, the Community Compact Cabinet is chaired by Polito and is composed of the secretaries of Housing & Economic Development, Education, Transportation, Energy & Environmental Affairs, and Technology Services and Security, and the Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services and the Assistant Secretary of Operational Services. The Community Compact Cabinet elevates the administration’s partnerships with cities and towns and allows the Governor’s Office to work more closely with leaders from all municipalities.

The Cabinet champions municipal interests across all executive secretariats and agencies, and develops, in consultation with cities and towns, mutual standards and best practices for both the state and municipalities.

Agawam Cultural Council seeks funding requests

AGAWAM – With a mandate to distribute state monies via a grants process, the Agawam Cultural Council is seeking grant requests from local community-oriented programs in arts, humanities and sciences in need of funding. The Agawam Cultural Council has set the FY2021 grant season to start Thursday, Oct. 1, and to end Monday, Nov. 16 as the postmark deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that may support or provide cultural activities for the Agawam community. According to Council spokesperson Bob Kadis, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Agawam -- including exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies or performances in the schools, workshops, lectures or historical interpretation.

Notably, the Council also encourages funding requests from schools and youth groups to cover ticket and transportation costs for field trips for school-age children.

For more information, Local Guidelines and FAQ’s can be found at this site: <http://www.mass-culture.org/Agawam> by clicking on the “Council Priorities” tab. Information about the ACC’s Grants program can also be found on the ACC’s own website at: <http://www.mass-culture.org/Agawam>.

The FY2021 allocation amount has not been determined as of this writing. But what we do know as of this writing is that there is \$2,350 of unencumbered funds

left over from the FY2020 grant season. The MCC FY2021 allocation plus the unencumbered funds will make up the total grant amount for FY2021. The total grant amount will be posted on our website when we know it. Note, the MCC FY2020 allocation was \$17,200.00 and when added to the FY2019 \$615.00 unencumbered funds made for an available total grant amount of \$17,815.00 for FY2020.

If you have questions about the online application process, you may contact the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Lisa Simmons at 617-858-2707 or at lisa.simmons@state.ma.us -- or ACC chair Bob Kadis, at 413-789-4814 or at r.kadis@comcast.net.

An online application process will become available Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020. The Agawam Cultural Council will not accept paper applications. To apply for a grant, please visit: <http://www.mass-culture.org/Agawam> and click “Apply Now.”

The Local Cultural Council Program, of which the Agawam Cultural Council is a part, is a grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency. The MCC provides allocations to each of Massachusetts’ 351 cities and towns to support cultural activities. These funds are then dispersed through a strict grant process conducted by the all-volunteer network of 329 Local Cultural Councils. This is the largest program of its kind in the United States.

What is The Agawam Catholic Blog?

AGAWAM – The Agawam Catholic Blog is a place that we as brothers and sisters in Christ can go to read an uplifting article, see what may be going on in our area, make a respectful comment or ask a respectful question. This blog is open to all communities within

our Springfield Diocese. It is very easy to access, just put in a search for The Agawam Catholic Blog. If you have any questions or concerns please call Deb Brianesco RN, Pastoral Minister at Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills. at 786.8200 ext. 3.

AAA hosts free virtual vacation webinars

Staff Report

REGION – AAA Travel is hosting a new series of virtual vacations to help travelers research and plan their next adventure. These new webinars showcase a variety of destinations, perfect for those looking to explore right now or in the future. Participants can interact with leading tour providers and gain more knowledge about travel options.

“Many AAA Travel clients residing in the Pioneer Valley are frustrated to be home bound,” said Sandra Marsian, vice president of the AAA Pioneer Valley. “We are all doing what we need to, keeping each other safe by staying home. But we do not have to like it, and nothing can stop us from dreaming of our future travels. Many of us hope to return to our freedom to travel soon and are looking for ways to understand what our future travel options will be. We are also looking for ways to stay entertained and informed while we wait.”

The virtual vacations webinar series

schedule includes:

- Oct. 1 - Discover Mackinac Island Tour
- Oct. 15 - North American Vacations
- Nov. 10 - Cruise through Alaska
- Dec.1 - Explore the National Parks
- March 17 - Iceland’s Magical Northern Lights

AAA Travel has been there for travelers since 1902, supporting the travel needs of members and non-members. These events are free and open to the public.

Registration is now open, to sign up for any, or all, of these free online events visit AAA.com/TravelEvents.

About AAA

AAA Pioneer Valley is a not-for-profit auto club with 6 offices in Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire counties of Massachusetts providing more than 200,000 local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance, and auto-related services. Since its founding in 1901, AAA Pioneer Valley has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Can I claim my widow's benefit at age 57?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: My husband passed away in 2001, and he paid into Social Security every year he worked, which would be over 30 years. If he were alive today, he would be 75-years-old. I am 57-years-old and still working full-time. Am I able to collect his Social Security benefits now since I am still working? Signed: Widowed Worker

Dear Widowed Worker: You are not eligible to collect a survivor benefit from your deceased husband if you have remarried, and you cannot collect the survivor benefit until you are at least 60 years of age. And, if you claim at age 60, the survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be if you waited until your full retirement age (FRA) to claim it (your full retirement age is 67). Any time any Social Security benefit is taken before FRA, it is reduced.

You can claim only your survivor benefit, not your own benefit, at age 60, but whenever benefits are taken before full retirement age, and you are still working, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before Social Security takes back some of your benefits.

The earnings limit for 2020 is \$18,240 (it changes yearly) and if the limit is exceeded Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. Such lost survivor benefits are not recoverable. Social Security publishes next year's earnings limits in the fall of each year prior, so what the earnings limit will be when you reach age 60 isn't yet known, but it will be an amount that is more than the 2020 limit.

Assuming you will also be eligible for your own Social Security benefits from your own lifetime work record, you should evaluate which benefit, at maximum, will give you the highest benefit amount. If that is your survivor benefit from your husband (which, at your FRA, would be 100% of the benefit your husband was collecting when he died), then you should consider maximizing the survivor benefit by not claiming it until you reach your FRA. If money is needed earlier, you could claim your own Social Security benefit as early as age 62, and allow your survivor benefit to reach maximum at your FRA. Conversely, if your own Social Security benefit from your own work record will be higher at maximum than your survivor benefit, then you could claim your survivor benefit first and delay claiming your own benefit until it reaches maximum at age 70 (your own benefit will be 24% more at 70 than it will be at your FRA). Your goal should be to get the highest possible benefit for the rest of your life and comparing these two options will permit you to do that. You can find out your estimated benefit amounts in both cases by contacting Social Security.

And remember, if you decide to claim your own benefit before your FRA, that too will be subject to the earnings limit until you reach your FRA, after which there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website at amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Letters to the Editor

No need for trash talking with school opinions

Dear Editor:

I have purposely waited to write this letter so to digest the situation and issues facing our School Committee and town.

As a School Committee member I have always acted with the best interest at heart for our community I now realize that my position has to be rephrased so as to be totally accurate. I am for all in learning and education but only when it is safe for teachers, students, parents, grandparents and the entire community. I am pro for full school in not against it but it must be done the right way to protect our community from Covid-19.

Thus, with CDC guidelines that now exists and the governor's requirement as the Mayor Sapelli has stated we cannot do full in with the guidelines and requirements that now exists.

Recently I have read what I term to be some negative comments and I reject them. I thank the people who came back and supported me online, people have called/text me with support and those who have left cards on the table outside of my

house in my support.

I intend to stay positive and act in the best interest of the children of Agawam, the parents of Agawam and the teachers of Agawam. My motto has always been from the first day I took office "Let the Children Soar" One of my best friends who unfortunately has passed on a few years back came up with that to describe how I felt. I still believe my decisions are based on it and I embrace it.

So do not try to attack my qualifications or decisions as I have always acted with the best intentions for the children of Agawam. Do not try to take one vote or another out of context of my years of service. I have fought for Agawam's schools as chairman of the budget finance subcommittee. I support the words of Bill Sapelli who recently did a video with the health director to offer positive guidelines for the community. I will always look at things from a positive manner no matter who tries to attack me for whatever reason. I will not let one vote define me. I will not let one position define me, I believe in a positive future for

Agawam's educational system. I have friends on the committee who differ from my opinion from time to time we still are friends we still work together for the children, teachers and Agawam Community and we do not attack each other. Instead we try to work together for the betterment of our community. So I suggest that we concentrate on how best we can make the educational system work for our teachers, students and staff.

Again, in closing I thank all the people who recently went online, called/text me and left cards at my doorstep. I respect everybody's opinion, but I do not respect trash talking and negative attacks. Let's instead work together for a better Agawam. I join and support Mayor Sapelli even though we may differ from time to time on different ways to address things. I know for a fact that everyone on the school committee has a good heart and I thank them for their concern and dedication to Agawam Schools.

Sincerely,
Anthony C. Bonavita

Town should have looser guidelines on apartments

Dear Editor:

There is an Ordinance before the Agawam City Council to amend the Code of the Town of Agawam to allow Accessory Apartments limiting them to Immediate Family Members.

On April 2, 2020 the Agawam Advertiser had a front page article titled, "In-law units called o.k. for families, not for profit", reporting on a March 10, 2020 City Council workshop. The article stated "several councilors spoke against a Planning Board proposal to allow accessory dwelling units". It further reported, "According to the text of the proposed ordinance, reasons Agawam is interested in allowing accessory apartments include: To provide older homeowners with a means of obtaining rental income, companionship, security and services, allowing them to remain in their homes. To add moderately priced rental units to Agawam's housing stock, to

meet the needs of smaller and lower-income households. To develop a variety of housing options in single-family residential neighborhoods - catering to households at different stages of life. To provide housing units for people with disabilities". These reasons align with the FY18-22 Agawam Housing Production Plan, which all current Councilors, who were members of the Council when it was approved, voted to support.

It is important to recognize that many illegal accessory apartments already exist in Agawam, by no means limited to immediate family members. Further, to limit accessory apartments to immediate family members unfairly excludes seniors who need the income and help, but do not have any immediate family members or whose family members would not want to change their own living arrangements.

Agawam is not the only city or town dealing with issues of zoning related to housing, and the same scenario plays out in every city or town where a zoning change to create more housing is proposed. Inevitably there will be an outcry against it.

More housing is desperately needed in our country, state, and right here in Agawam, where 40 percent of households earned less than 80 percent of the Area Median Income before the pandemic, which has only made things worse.

While change is hard for all of us, it is critical to take a realistic view of the housing needs of our town and act appropriately to meet them. Limiting Accessory Apartments to immediate family members does not do that. I urge the Council to go back and approve the original Planning Board proposal.

Sincerely,
Corinne Wingard



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Winter rye is a great investment in next year’s garden

You might think that sowing the seeds of anything this time of year is a waste. Not so! In fact, planting winter rye is a great investment in next year’s garden. Who couldn’t use a bit more organic matter in their soil? I know I could, and incorporating winter rye grass into the garden patch come springtime is a great way to achieve that goal. Winter rye is one of the few winter hardy cover crops.

What exactly is a cover crop? A simplified but accurate definition would be: “a group of like or mixed plants that protect and enrich the soil.” Instead of leaving the ground barren for any length of time, and thereby at risk of erosion and nutrient loss, we plant cover crops. Experienced cover croppers plant them even in the summer months, in any part of the garden not taken up by crops. I have been most successful utilizing them during late fall and winter.

Winter rye (*Secale cereale*) is my cover crop of choice. It is hardy in our area and can be planted successfully after the garden is cleaned up for the season. As its name would suggest, winter rye is a grain that belongs to a large plant family by the name of Gramineae. Besides other grains such as wheat, barley, and oats, this family includes bamboo and many of our favorite lawn grasses among its members. Many legumes and clovers are also used as cover crops. They have the advantage of “fixing” nitrogen from the air and returning it to the soil where it can feed other plants. One legume by the name of hairy vetch will successfully overwinter in our climate and is often used as a companion to winter rye. It can’t be sown as late, however, so I stick with my old stand-by.

Winter rye, when sown in the early fall establishes itself quickly. Thick, fibrous roots anchor the soil during the winter and spring months, protecting it from erosion caused by wind and rain. These same roots will hold on to valuable nutrients, preventing them from being leached out of the

ground during spring run-off. Besides all of that, the amount of organic matter winter rye adds to the soil when tilled in prior to spring planting is remarkable. At less than \$30 per 50 pound bag, it is well worth the monetary investment.

After the harvest what is left of my garden is hauled off to the compost pile. I hoe up the rows a bit and sow the seed by hand, “broadcast” it if you will, by scattering it in one direction, then the other. After all the seed is sown, I cover it by dragging the flat end of a steel rack back and forth in the soil. If rain is not in the forecast, I’ll water every day for a few days in a row. Germination should occur in a week or so but will cease at the first sign of super cold weather.

When the ground begins to thaw, winter rye will start growing again. I glory in a green “lawn” in March, even if it is only in my garden. About a month prior to planting other crops I chop down the grass with hedge clippers and turn the plants into soil by hand. For big plots you can enlist the help of a rototiller. Here a weed whacker or lawnmower would be put to good use cutting down the grass first. This step prevents tall grass blades from getting caught in the tines of the tiller and will also expedite decomposition of the rye into the soil. It is important to wait until decomposition occurs prior to planting anything else since this process may inhibit the growth of some plants. As mentioned a month or even three weeks will suffice. If I know I am going to start peas or other very early crops I do leave a section of the garden free of rye so that sowing is easy.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



IN THE GARDEN



ROBERTA MCQUAID
TURLEY
PUBLICATIONS
COLUMNIST

Church gift shop now open

AGAWAM – The Vine and Branches Gift Shop is now open. The gift shop will only be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 – 3; masks are required. Due to Covid restrictions no browsing will be allowed. Method of payment preferred is credit/debit cards. We look forward to seeing everyone. Any questions or concerns please contact Deb Brianesco RN, Pastoral Minister at 786.8200 ext. 3

Quarantine stories still sought by Agawam Public Library

We are currently living through a historical time. We are experiencing things that people have never experienced before. The Agawam Library would like to learn what this time has been like for you. We are asking people up to age 17 to answer a few questions to document what they’re going through during this time.

People up to age 17 are encouraged to answer the questions found at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/teens/digital-archive-for-kids-up-to-age-17/>

When we are done collecting the responses they will be bound into a book available for viewing at the Agawam Library. No names will be attached to entries, only initials. Also, since things have been changing so often it’s okay to fill it out more than once.

The questions that will be asked are:
Some words that describe how I feel about having to stay home are:
Three things I like to spend my time doing are:
I am most grateful for:

The biggest change for me has been:
My favorite activity to do inside is:
The three things I’m most excited to do when this is over are:

Draw a picture about how you feel being at home:

If you have questions about the survey please contact Pamela Weingart, Children’s



Quarantine stories from Agawam’s youth are sought by Agawam Public Library. Contact the library for more information on submitting your story. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Librarian at the Agawam Public Library at pweingart@agawamlibrary.org or call the Agawam Library Children’s Room at 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 345 calls for service from Aug. 7 to Sept. 13 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Sept. 8

Justin Clark, 48, of 997 Main St., Agawam, was arrested at 1:01 a.m. for receiving stolen property over \$1,200, attaching plates, a default warrant for failure to appear, and driving an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle.

Matthew E. Malloy, 32, of 495 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, was arrested at 2:07 p.m. for distribution of Class C drugs, conspiracy to violate drug laws,

manufacturing Class C substances, possession and distribution of Class D drugs, and possession of a firearm without an FID card.

Mark David Peabody, 32, of 70 High St., West Springfield, was arrested 7:17 p.m. for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, unsafe lane changes, and a warrant.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

Renee Malloy, 32, of 495 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, was arrested at 7:43 p.m. for possession of Class C and E drugs, possession of a firearm without a FID card, and possession of ammunition without a FID card.

Drive-In Sunday service continues to be popular alternative

AGAWAM – St. David’s Episcopal Church, next to the Agawam Police Station on Springfield Street, has been offering an unusual alternative to in-person Sunday worship services—a drive-in service. With average “car attendance” at 25 each Sunday, cars are parked with social distancing in mind, and sanitized worship materials are provided. Celebrants are protected from “the elements” under the Church’s entry canopy, and the service is broadcast on an FM frequency into people’s cars. The service is also live-streamed on the stdavidsfeedinghills.org Facebook page, and later in the day posted to YouTube. Pre-recorded hymns are played during the service.

Since the recent start of Phase 2 under

Bishop Fisher of Springfield’s guidelines, the Holy Eucharist is now being received as well, with the priest and a deacon offering the communion hosts from car to car from a gloved hand.

Fr. Harvey Hill, the Rector of St. David’s, has noted an increased optimism since the reinstatement of the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. “Our people have been faithfully joining us online and in the parking lot for the last several weeks. But it wasn’t the same without Holy Communion. Sharing the sacrament was been a wonderful blessing for all of us!”

The service is held every Sunday at 9 a.m. and all are welcome.

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48						49			50	51	52	53
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

- Greasy powder (abbr.)
- Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)
- Amount of time
- Greeting
- Form of “to be”
- Israeli diplomat
- Outfit
- The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- Deceptive movement
- Anxious
- Popular Letterman guest
- Saints’ signal caller
- Intoxicate
- Relationship
- Ask for one’s hand in marriage
- Popular Will Ferrell film
- Gargle

- Warning sensation before migraine
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Erases
- At ease
- Small branch of an artery
- Mother of Hermes
- Body part
- Cavalry sword
- Wellness chants
- Helps little firms
- Afflicted
- Peep
- Popular Letterman guest
- Spiritual leader
- Doctor of Education
- Affirmative
- Cheek

CLUES DOWN

- Popular kids’ game

- Away from wind
- Round water pot
- Drink quickly
- A simple type of jet engine
- Something for nothing
- Painkiller
- Siskel’s pal
- Strong spirit distilled in Turkey
- Again
- Imitate
- Icelandic poems
- Jacob __, American journalist
- No (Scottish)
- Newborn
- Credit term
- Nonprofit research group in CA
- Male offspring
- Important baseball stat
- A way to compel

- Fiddler crab
- Jewish equivalent of “Sir”
- Every
- Midway between east and southeast
- Anti-slavery treaty
- A friendly manner
- Military figure (abbr.)
- Area units
- Sudden incursions
- Expressed pleasure
- Covered with hoarfrost
- Job
- Donkey
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Light dry-gap bridge (abbr.)
- Criticize

CEREMONY ■ from page 1

the department and onlookers during the live ceremony.

Though the department gathered for the ceremony it was limited to the Fire Department, Mayor William Sapelli, Les Tingley, and a few onlookers all socially distant and equipped with masks. The COVID-19 virus has caused complications for many events and ceremonies during the year, but the Fire Chief Alan Sirois and Mayor Sapelli both felt that honoring and remembering those who lost their life in 9/11 is important and worthy of a socially distant event. “It’s essential that we remember this day, we need to reflect on the actions of this day and see the results or it’ll repeat itself.” Sirois said “If we were to cancel this celebration and this day, it would not rightly honor those who lost their lives.”

The Fire Chief worked with Agawam Media to be able to air the ceremony on Comcast Channel 12 and 15, as well as live streaming the ceremony so people could attend at home and watch it in real time. Sirois understood that the ceremony could not be a large one with many in attendance, so he thought of an alternate option to appropriately celebrate those who have fallen. Sirois feel that doing the ceremony this way allowed the audience to be far away, but to still be with the department while the honored the lives lost.

“We have to honor those people, the heroes and the Good Samaritans who went into burning and collapsing building to save others. There were plenty of pedestrians who stepped up and became hero’s during that day.” Sapelli said. “We can never forget that, no matter what’s going on. Some kids don’t even know the importance or significance of 9/11 and it’s important to remember.”

During the ceremony Sapelli shared the story of Flight 93. The flight was headed to the White House when passengers learned of the attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. The passengers banded together to stop the terrorists on their plane. The

plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania and many lost their lives, but many more stood up and came together as a nation to save their country.

During the ceremony a call came into the Fire Department and a team hustled to the call in Engine 2, showing the bravery that Chief Sirois spoke about in those who did their duty 19 years ago.

The Fire Department Chaplain, Father Bill Hamilton spoke of the Town’s Fire Department members and the braves they show daily when they respond to a call not knowing if they will return to base afterwards. Reverend Dr. Harvey Hill from St. David’s Episcopal Church also spoke on the bravery of the towns department and on the bravery of every Fire Department member, First Responder, police officer, and Good Samaritan that ran back into buildings to help anyone that they could.

“We can learn from the men and women that were commemorating today.” Reverend Hill said.

He expressed the importance of remembering and celebrating these hero’s in 2020, during a pandemic that brought to light the hero’s in our communities and neighborhoods. The department honored the lives lost with five bell strikes in remembrance, as well as the Fireman’s Prayer presented by Lieutenant James Deming. The ceremony not only gave people a chance to remember the lives lost, but to remember that we as a nation can come together in times of trouble.

“If you have family members too young to recall this sense of national unity, please tell them that we do not need to be a nation angrily divided, and that our greatest strength is derived from our diversity and reverence,” Sirois said. “2,977 people lost their lives on this day in 2001, but that is not where the American story ended. We should honor these lost lives by uniting our nation through mutual respect and support. That unity starts with all of us, as individuals.”



The flag is raised during the ceremony. PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



The Fire Department attended out front of the Department building, to honor and celebrate those who lost their lives in 9/11.



Reverend Dr. Harvey Hill from St. Davids Episcopal Church spoke during the ceremony and said a prayer in remembrance.



Fire Chief Alan Sirois speaks during the 9/11 ceremony, which was live streamed by Les Tingley, the Agawam Media Manager.



Agawam Fire Department Chaplain, Father Bill Hamilton spoke of the bravery shown during 9/11 and gave a prayer in remembrance

State Treasurer informs public on unclaimed property

BOSTON - During these unprecedented times, there are not many chances for a simple slam dunk. But today, as our beloved Boston Celtics head into a highly anticipated game 7, Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg has announced the latest grouping of names added to the state's list of unclaimed property owners.

Over 51,000 new properties worth millions of dollars belong to individuals and businesses throughout the Commonwealth. Folks who have unclaimed property include Celtic's owners Wyc Grousbeck and Steve Pagliuca, Head Coach Brad Stevens, and the Boston Celtics' organization itself.

"It is time to block out distractions, take it to the bucket, and let the Unclaimed Property team assist you," said Treasurer Deborah Goldberg. "During uncertain times, this opportunity to rebound can really help. One in ten Massachusetts residents are owed money. So, call our office today to begin the give-and-go."

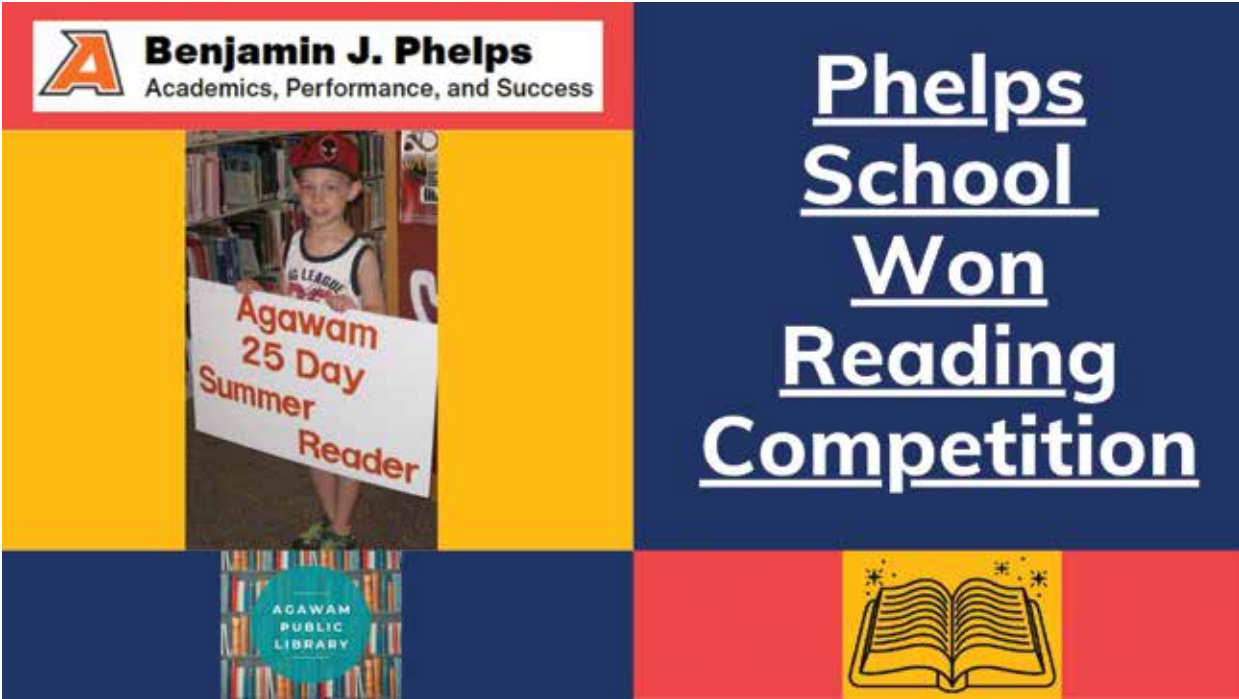
Unclaimed property includes forgotten savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, dividends, and the contents of unattended safe deposit boxes. These accounts have had too much hang time and are turned over to the state after three years of inactivity.

Last year, Treasury processed over 110,000 claims of over \$130 million in property to its rightful owners.

This newly released list includes only individuals and businesses with unclaimed property over \$100. To view www.findmassmoney.com or call our live call center at 888-344-MASS (6277).

The update of all new individuals and businesses added to the unclaimed property list will be published in the Boston Globe on September 13th and will be in the Boston Herald on September 20th. In addition, the names will be published in over 30 regional and local papers.

The Treasury releases an updated list of unclaimed property assets every six months as the new accounts are turned over to the Commonwealth. There is no buzzer beater needed for a person to claim this property and, in many cases, claimants will receive interest accumulated.



Phelps Elementary School was the winner of the Elementary School Reading Challenge. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Phelps School Wins Reading Challenge

AGAWAM – It sure has been quite a summer. Many of the normal summer activities that we look forward to every year were different this year, but some things were consistent. The Agawam Public Library still offered a Summer Reading Program and the Friends of the Agawam Public Library still held their annual Elementary School Reading Challenge.

All four Agawam/Feeding Hills elementary schools compete to have the highest percentage of students participate in the library's Summer Reading Program and read for 25 days during the program. The elementary school with the highest percentage of 25 day readers is awarded \$200 for their school library. Each of the other three schools is awarded \$100 for their school library. The grand total of all of the prize money provided by the Friends of the Agawam Public Library is \$500.

This year the winning elementary school was Benjamin Phelps School. They will receive \$200 to support their school library. Thank you to the Friends of the Agawam Public Library and their continued support of the Agawam Elementary Schools.

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library are always looking for new members. The annual dues for an individual are \$15, for a family it's \$20, and for Senior Citizens the annual dues are \$10. To learn more about how to become a Friend of the library go to: <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends/>

New cycle of Community Compact Cabinet IT grant applications start

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration today announced the opening of the sixth year of the Community Compact IT Grant Program which will provide a total of \$3 million in grants for municipal and school district projects designed to modernize and improve technology systems. The Community Compact IT program will be accepting applications from Sept. 15, through Oct. 15, and will provide each municipal recipient up to \$200,000 in funding.

Since its inception, the Community Compact IT Grant Program has awarded 240 grants totaling \$12 million to municipalities and school districts to invest in transformative technology infrastructure and critical equipment.

"Our administration remains committed to supporting cities and towns and modernizing and securing the commonwealth's technological resources," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "We continue to work closely with our partners in the legislature and in local government to improve technology systems, a need that is even more apparent due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic."

"The Community Compact IT Grant Program continues to help meet communities' technology needs and bolster technological capabilities," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "As the chair of the Community Compact Cabinet, I am proud of the work we have done so far and look forward to another year of important projects."

COVID-19 has greatly impacted how commonwealth residents interact with municipalities and utilize technology services. These Community Compact IT grants will be allocated to commonwealth cities, towns, and school districts to aid in one-time capital improvements such as technology infrastructure, upgrades, or equipment purchases. This includes records management and e-permitting systems, implementing new cybersecurity measures, and improvements to public safety systems.

"Community Compact IT grants provide important opportunities for local governments to engage in projects that may otherwise be cost-prohibitive," said Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan. "We appreciate the support of the Legislature and municipal partners across the commonwealth as we continue to improve the delivery of essential technology services for Massachusetts residents."

"We believe that making smart investments to modernize and secure technology assets at both the state and local level is a key component in creating a resilient and responsive government for the commonwealth's residents and businesses," said Secretary of Technology Services and Security Curtis M. Wood. "The Community Compact IT Grant Program has funded many critical municipal IT projects to date, and we look forward to the continued dialogue with our partners in municipal government."

Formed in January 2015, the Community Compact Cabinet is chaired by Polito and is composed of the secretaries of Housing & Economic Development, Education, Transportation, Energy & Environmental Affairs, and Technology Services and Security, and the Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services and the Assistant Secretary of Operational Services. The Community Compact Cabinet elevates the administration's partnerships with cities and towns and allows the Governor's Office to work more closely with leaders from all municipalities.

The Cabinet champions municipal interests across all executive secretariats and agencies, and develops, in consultation with cities and towns, mutual standards and best practices for both the state and municipalities.

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SPORTS

FALL SPORTS

Student-athletes set to begin practices this Friday

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The week many area athletes have been waiting for has come. After six long months of no interscholastic sports, high school fall teams will be able to “take the field” starting this Friday, Sept. 18.

After months of virtual meetings, postponement after postponement from the spring season, and a month-long delay to the fall season, high school players will finally get to start working toward a modified season.

There will be at least two weeks of practices for most teams before games are scheduled to begin. Ac-

cording to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association plan, games can begin playing on Oct. 1, about a month past when games normally begin. Games typically start the day after Labor Day, which is when most students go back to school.

Student-athletes will be under strict guidelines as they navigate the murky waters of being able to return to action.

Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton serves on both the Sports Medicine Subcommittee for the MIAA's Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors for the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, the governing body of most

sports and the schools in the Western Massachusetts region.

Stratton said there will be a clear focus on keeping students safe. He said the most important thing to the area schools is ensuring athletes are able to get on the field and play games without setbacks.

“We just want to be able to play and not get shut down,” said Stratton.

While players are set to take the field this Friday, they will do so without schedules finalized.

Stratton said this is because the PVIAC is still waiting for all schools to complete votes on whether they will be participating.

Among the schools the PVIAC is waiting on are Chicopee (and Chicopee Comprehensive), Pathfinder Regional, and a potential re-vote in Southwick.

Chicopee's school committee was tentatively scheduled to vote on Sept. 16. It is not known when the other votes were supposed to take place. Southwick's school committee had originally voted no to the Fall 1 season and wanted to postpone all sports to Fall 2. But a massive demonstration by the student population is likely leading to a re-vote this week. Southwick is the only school in the Pioneer Valley to have noted to do no sports during the first fall season. Because the rest of

the surrounding schools are participating, Southwick students argued they would have no one to play during the Fall 2 season, when football is scheduled to take place. The Fall 2 season is supposed to take place in late February through April, presumably after restrictions from the pandemic would ease up.

Stratton said he hoped to see schedules out by the end of the week once the votes are completed.

Stratton said schedules will likely be around 10 or 12 games for most teams. The MIAA is not sponsoring any playoffs, but Stratton said the PVIAC is not ruling it out.

COLUMN

No playoffs, but fall season of great importance in many ways

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and the several state government agencies have finally come to agreements and there will be a “fall season.”

While there are many who are unhappy with the significantly modified rules for soccer and field hockey, you can guarantee the athletes who will take the field at the end of this week will be grateful to do so.

Granted, soccer will change significantly. No walls to block close-range direct kicks, no corner kicks to headers for goals. The game will be different.

But after six months of almost “lockdown” conditions, the athletes who will participate in these modified games will be able to take advantage of the benefits offered by playing interscholastic sports.

First, they will get to work on teamwork and great communication skills. Those will be important now more than ever as the players get used to these temporary rules. These are values and skills that are taught no matter what, but most players have gone without this repetition for six months. Soccer players, specifically, also missed out on a summer season that is always so valuable to in preparing for the very competitive fall season.

Second, many of the student athletes who will be seniors this year will not have to suffer the same unfortunate fate as the Class of 2020's spring athletes. Those student-athletes lost out on their entire final seasons in baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, track, and boys volleyball. Additionally, these seniors will be making decisions about where they want to go to college and have this one opportunity be scouted for these sports. The college recruitment process is also pretty important to many skilled juniors.

And third, everyone's mental health will benefit from the return to high school sports. More than any other competitive sports league, even professionals, are the enjoyment for parents of watching their children compete at the highest level, varsity. When that was taken away from athletes, coaches, and parents, it was a very tough time. Instead of practicing daily, students were shuttered to their homes. They were unable to see friends, work out, and improve their skills. The extended closure of most public places further exacerbated those restrictions. Now that high school sports are returning, it will greatly improve that morale among students. An opportunity to play, compete, and ultimately, have fun. Which is something most high school athletes have not had since the state basketball playoffs were abruptly shut down on March 10.

Hopefully everyone will do their part, wearing masks, socially distancing, and making every effort to obey modified rules so nothing will be shut down as we continue the elusive wait for a vaccine and a return to normalcy.

In the meantime, good luck to the Fall 1 athletes on this important step back to normalcy.

RACING



Todd Patnode won a close race to take the modified event. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local driver Cormier wins mini-stock race

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Todd Patnode (Swansey, NH) made a late-race pass to earn his third NHSTRA Modified feature of the year Saturday, Sept. 12.

The high-banked speedplant completed its 13th event of the season Saturday, and when all was said and done, one driver had taken her first victory lap of the year, Aaron Fellows (Croydon, NH) had stormed to his track-high eleventh feature win, and the sizzling Curtis twins, Jaret and Chase, were again tied atop the Street Stock title race.

The Six Shooter division made its maiden Monadnock run Saturday, with southern-staters Brandon Mailhot (Epping, NH) and Adam Knowles first and second under the flags, and Granite State Mini Cup ace Skeeter Beerce was dominant in both his heat and feature races.

Kevin Pittsinger and Trevor Bleau led the Mod Squad to the green in the night's 40-lap main event, with Bleau – up in smoke a week earlier – jumping all over the opening lead. Scott MacMichael and Cameron Houle chased Bleau to the front, but Patnode, from

row four, was on the move early.

Patnode got up for third on lap ten, took second on the 25th circuit, and had soon reeled Bleau in. And, while almost everyone's eyes were glued on the front pair, rookie Cory Plummer – from row six – was having a career night just behind them.

Using the inside groove, Patnode inched ahead as lap 34 was completed. Bleau stayed glued to his bumper the final six laps, matching his season-best finish of opening night in second. Plummer's huge run netted him third, Ben Byrne came home fourth, and track points leader – third in national points too – Brian Robie was fifth.

Jaret Curtis (Rutland, NH) took the lead from Tim Wenzel on lap 13 of the Street Stock feature and never looked back. Chris Buffone used a rub to take second on lap 17 but could advance no further, earning runner-up honors with Chase Curtis glued to his bumper in third. It was Jaret Curtis' third win of the season.

Aaron Fellows passed Justin Littlewood for the lead on lap nine of the Late Model Sportsman feature,

shrugged off a late-race tap from runner-up Adam Gray, and stormed off to his eleventh win, against one runner-up finish, this season. Gray was second, and Robert Hagar third.

Kevin Cormier (Agawam, Ma) took the lead from Kevin Russell on lap 14 of the Mini Stock main event, then holding strong to earn his second 2020 victory lap. Clayton finished his impressive night's work in second, with veteran hot shoe Pat Houle coming from row six to post his season-best finish in third.

Top points man Gordon Farnum was fourth in Saturday's Minis, and now leads the championship points chase by 24 markers over Granby, Mass. hot shoe Nathan Wenzel.

Jason Leray set a fast pace the first six laps of the Pure Stock feature but bobbled on a restart and was quickly shuffled backward. Points leader Mike Douglas took charge on lap nine but was soon gobbled up by Erin Aiken (Claremont, NH), who then socially distanced herself from the field to score her first win this season, accomplishing the feat aboard the same car

Sports



Kevin Cormier, a driver from Agawam, took the mini-stock race last Saturday at Monadnock Speedway. SUBMITTED PHOTO

RACING ■ from page 8

her husband, Dave, had driven to victory twice earlier in the season.

Brandon Mailhot started up front and led all the way to win the first-ever Six Shooter feature on the high banks. Adam Knowles was second, and Claremont racer Paul Colburn strong in third.

With only two weeks remaining in the 2020 racing season, fans will have another opportunity to enjoy an early-fall night of exciting outdoor entertainment when Monadnock Speedway hosts a full card of oval track racing this Saturday, September 19, on the storied quarter-mile.

For more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

MONADNOCK SPEEDWAY SEPTEMBER 12 RESULTS:

NHSTRA Modifieds: Todd Patnode, Trevor Bleau, Cory Plummer, Ben Byrne, Brian Robie, Russ Hersey, Matt Kimball, Scott MacMichael, Kim Rivet, Solomon Brow, Brian Chapin, Jason Houle, Stewart McCormack, Cameron Houle, Eric Leclair, Brad Zahensky, Kevin Pittsinger

Street Stocks: Jaret Curtis, Chris Bufone, Chase Curtis, Tim Wenzel, Hillary

Renaud, Kenny Thompson, Robbie Streetter, Paul Barnard, Bryan Granger, Ed Brehio, Craig Chaffee

Late Model Sportsman: Aaron Fellows, Adam Gray, Robert Hagar, Cole Littlewood, Will Kuhn, Camdyn Curtis, John Meany, Scott Beck, Dan Comeau, Nancy Muni-Ruot, Justin Littlewood

Six Shooters: Brandon Mailhot, Adam Knowles, Paul Colburn, Jeremy Blood, David Piper, Travis Hollins, Chris Hadley, John Voorhees, Ben Bushey, Todd Maguire, Ray Luce, Chooch Snide, Chris Colburn, Brian Stefano, Scott Wade, Dakota Lanou

Mini Stocks: Kevin Cormier, Kevin Clayton, Pat Houle, Gordon Farnum, Tim Leblanc, Nathan Wenzel, William Chaffee, Shelby Avery, Jeff Asselin, Jeff Heath, Louis Maher II, Kyle Poodiack, Jake Puchalski, Kevin Russell, Kevin McKnight

Pure Stocks (unofficial): Erin Aiken, Jimmy Zellman, Mike Douglas, Chris Davis, Damon Roy, Matt Lambert, Nolan McClay, Doug Nelson, JD Stockwell, Nick Houle, Randy Phillips, Brandon Lavoie, Cory Lofland, Jason Leray, Bruce Clark, Ryan Lawliss

Golfers play in charity event

UNCASVILLE – The Connecticut PGA Pro Veteran Invitational golf tournament that took place last Thursday at Mohegan Sun Golf Club in Baltic, Conn.

This great event kicked off with a Color Guard Ceremony performed by the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the National Anthem sung by Mohegan Sun's Director of Transportation, Derrick Williams. From there, CT PGA Pro's joined teams of veterans for an 18-hole scramble score competition.

Upon completion of a successful tournament where social distancing guidelines were in practice, Chris Tallman, from Orchards Golf Club in Hadley, MA, took home the Individual Low PGA Professional award, shooting a 68.

The overall winning team (-13), representing Orchard Golf Club, consisted of David Bombard, David Watson, Kyle Wylie

and Jay Milkey, along with Chris Tallman, PGA.

Dennis Dungee of the Connecticut Section PGA, along with host PGA Professionals Philip Krick Jr. and Michel Painchaud, presented winners with crystal trophy awards and assorted prizes.

"Our goal with this annual event is to support local and regional veterans and programs through the game of golf," said Dennis Dungee, CT Section PGA and Philip Krick, Jr., PGA Mohegan Sun Golf Club.

The majority of funds raised from this event, which was nearly \$2,000, will benefit the Salute Military Golf Association of New England, under the leadership of Jerry Shanahan. This organization's mission is to help in the healing of wounded veterans through the power of golf. To learn more, visit www.SMGA.org/Boston.



Chris Tallman, of South Hadley, chips during action at Mohegan Sun Golf Club. Tallman was part of a winning team that was playing for charity. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Golfers gather around one of the holes during action.

Pioneers announce tryouts for upcoming season

LUDLOW – WUP FC is proud to hold tryouts for the 2020-2021 season. Tryouts are for Boys and Girls of all age groups including an open house for younger ages:

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First Kick: players born in 2016

This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately.

To ensure we can create the safest environment for your player due to COVID19 precautions, we are still working on exact dates and times to conduct tryouts for the 2020-2021 season. Players may be invited to smaller training sessions and/or limited attendance tryout venues. You will be notified with options via email.

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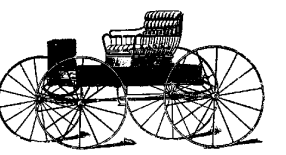
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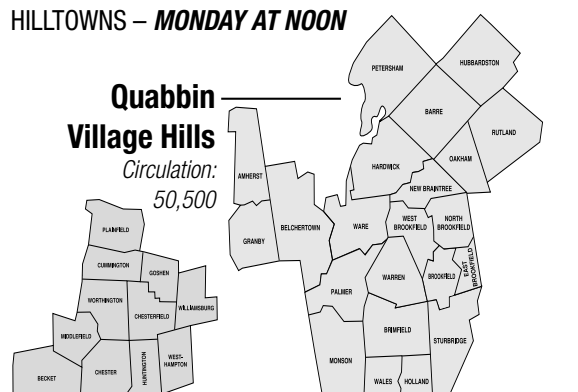
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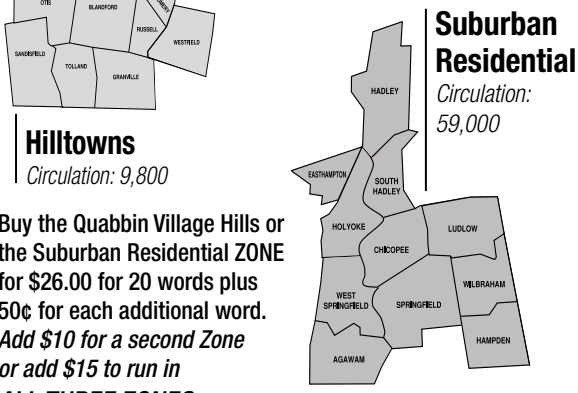
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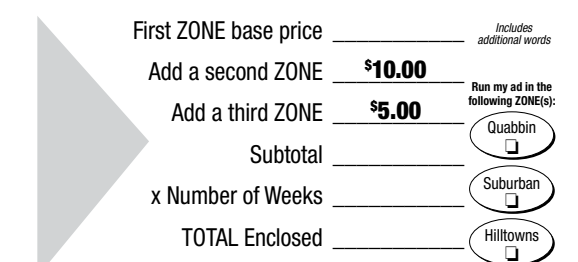
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AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet remotely through Zoom at 6:00 PM on Thursday, September 24, 2020. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the application of Moriarty for a Request for Determination of Applicability on property located at 146 Forest Hill Road.

By Order of

Henry A. Kozloski,
Chairman
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9/17/2020

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P1448EA
Estate of:**

**Denise D. Fitzgerald
Date of Death:
August 14, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Kelly Gosselin** of East Longmeadow, MA, a Will

has been admitted to informal probate.

Kelly Gosselin of East Longmeadow, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
9/17/2020

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1506EA
Estate of: James Thomas
Date of Death: 01/31/2020
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with**

Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Jennifer Daly** of Longmeadow, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Jennifer Daly** of Longmeadow, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/01/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal

Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 03, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
9/17/2020

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the purpose of the
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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

THE BAZAAR AT EASTFIELD IS Now accepting vendor applications! Store opening October 3, 2020 - Eastfield Mall. Call for details (413) 209-8036

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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VACATION RENTALS

WARM WEATHER IS Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

FOR RENT



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STCC announces fall workforce development courses

SPRINGFIELD – From personal trainers to phlebotomy technicians and plumbers, Springfield Technical Community College’s Workforce Development Center offers a number of affordable training options this fall to prepare students for a range of career opportunities.

Some of the courses may be free for those who use services provided by the statewide MassHire Workforce System. In addition, individuals who receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program may be eligible for free certified nursing assistant classes.

The following classes will be offered this fall. Some classes will be taught online only. Others will be offered on campus using social distancing protocol. Please visit stcc.edu/wdc for more information, including when the classes will start.

- Auto Damage Appraiser Exam Preparation
 - Water Distribution
 - Personal Trainer
 - Real Estate Sales Exam
 - CNA I and II
 - CPR Refresher
 - Dental Radiology
 - EMT
 - Phlebotomy Tech
 - Phlebotomy for Healthcare
 - PC/Network
 - Legal Interpreting
 - Medical Interpreting
 - Electrical I, II, III and IV
 - Master Electrician
 - MA Construction License
 - Plumbing Tier I and II
 - Sprinkler Fitter II
- David Buonora, assistant vice president

of Workforce Development at STCC, said the non-credit programs and classes meet the ever-changing technology and workforce demands of individuals, business and industry in the region.

“Our mission is to offer programs and classes that will lead to employment. We provide both instructor-led and web-based workforce training and certifications in a wide variety of areas,” Buonora said. “Whether you’re looking to start a career, change careers or learn a new skill, now is an excellent time to consider the training programs offered this fall.”

Many of STCC’s Workforce Development Center programs may qualify for funding under the Department of Unemployment Assistance. Anyone who is out of work should contact the MassHire Career Centers in their area for guidance and information.

David M. Cruise, president and CEO of the MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, said he is happy STCC is an option for many of the customers coming into the MassHire One Stop Career Centers.

“STCC has been a strong partner with us for many years,” Cruise said. “Having an array of courses available at STCC gives those seeking training many courses from which to choose that can be appropriate based on their career aspirations.”

Interested in applying? Visit stcc.edu/wdc or call the Workforce Development Center at 413-755-4225

Founded in 1967 and located on 35 acres of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, STCC is a major resource for the economic vitality of Western Massachusetts.

For more information about STCC, visit www.stcc.edu.

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